

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

1 Claim 14 (new): Apparatus for one of a plurality of user  
2 terminals adapted for use within a network and by a user, the  
3 network connecting said one user terminal with a server, the one  
4 user terminal comprising:

5 means for mutually interacting with the server via the  
6 network; and

7 means for setting, by the user, local user preferences valid  
8 for the one terminal itself and non-local user preferences valid  
9 for the network, the local user preferences being stored within  
10 the one user terminal and used in configuring operation of the  
11 one user terminal for use by the user, and the non-local user  
12 preferences being communicated, by the one user terminal and the  
13 network to the server, for storage by the server and for use in  
14 configuring operation of the network as required by the one user  
15 terminal for use by the user.

1 Claim 15 (new): The apparatus recited in claim 14 wherein said  
2 setting means:

3 downloads a preferences setting file from the server to the  
4 one user terminal;

5 completes the preferences setting file with input, from the  
6 user and provided via a user interface on the one user terminal,  
7 with the local and non-local user preferences for the user so as

8 to define a completed preferences setting file having completed  
9 local and non-local preferences; and  
10 uploads said preferences setting file to the server.

1 Claim 16 (new): The apparatus recited in claim 15 wherein the  
2 setting means assigns one or more preference groups to the  
3 completed local and non-local preferences such that each of the  
4 completed local and non-local preferences is associated with one  
5 or more of the preference groups.

1 Claim 17 (new): The apparatus recited in claim 16 wherein the  
2 setting means:

3 selects, by the user via the user interface, one group from  
4 the preference groups so as to define a selected preference  
5 group;

6 retrieves, by the server, those ones of the local and  
7 non-local preferences which are associated with the selected  
8 preference group; and

9 activates both the operation of the one user terminal, based  
10 on the local preferences associated with the selected preference  
11 group, and the operation of the network or the server, based on  
12 the non-local preferences associated with the selected preference  
13 group.

1 Claim 18 (new): The apparatus recited in claim 17 wherein the one  
2 user terminal comprises an Application Program Interface for  
3 activating the operation of the one user terminal based on the  
4 local preferences in the selected preference group.

1 Claim 19 (new): The apparatus recited in claim 17 wherein the  
2 network comprises an Application Program Interface for activating

3 the operation of the network based on the non-local preferences  
4 in the selected preference group.

1 Claim 20 (new): An information system comprising:

2 a network connecting a plurality of user terminals and a  
3 server, one of the user terminals, for use by a user, and the  
4 server each having means for mutually interacting with each other  
5 via the network; and

6 means, within the one user terminal, for setting, by the  
7 user through said one user terminal, local user preferences valid  
8 for the one terminal itself and non-local user preferences valid  
9 for the network, the local user preferences being stored within  
10 the one user terminal and used in configuring operation of the  
11 one user terminal for use by the user, and the non-local user  
12 preferences being communicated, by the one user terminal and the  
13 network to the server, for storage by the server and for use in  
14 configuring operation of the network as required by the one user  
15 terminal for use by the user.

1 Claim 21 (new): The information system recited in claim 20  
2 wherein said setting means:

3 downloads a preferences setting file from the server to the  
4 one user terminal;

5 completes the preferences setting file with input, from the  
6 user and provided via a user interface on the one user terminal,  
7 with the local and non-local user preferences for the user so as  
8 to define a completed preferences setting file having completed  
9 local and non-local preferences; and

10 uploads said preferences setting file to the server.

1 Claim 22 (new): The information system recited in claim 21  
2 wherein the setting means assigns one or more preference groups

3 to the completed local and non-local preferences such that each  
4 of the completed local and non-local preferences is associated  
5 with one or more of the preference groups.

1 Claim 23 (new): The information system recited in claim 22  
2 wherein the setting means:

3 selects, by the user via the user interface, one group from  
4 the preference groups so as to define a selected preference  
5 group;

6 retrieves, by the server, those ones of the local and  
7 non-local preferences which are associated with the selected  
8 preference group; and

9 activates both the operation of the one user terminal, based  
10 on the local preferences associated with the selected preference  
11 group, and the operation of the network or the server, based on  
12 the non-local preferences associated with the selected preference  
13 group.

1 Claim 24 (new): The information system recited in claim 23  
2 wherein the one user terminal comprises an Application Program  
3 Interface for activating the operation of the one user terminal  
4 based on the local preferences in the selected preference group.

1 Claim 25 (new): The information system recited in claim 23  
2 wherein the network comprises an Application Program Interface  
3 for activating the operation of the network based on the  
4 non-local preferences in the selected preference group.

1 Claim 26 (new): A method for use in an information system, the  
2 information system having a network connecting a plurality of  
3 user terminals and a server, one of the user terminals, for use  
4 by a user, and the server each having means for mutually

5 interacting with each other via the network; the method  
6 comprising the step of:

7 setting, by the user through the one user terminal, local  
8 user preferences valid for the one terminal itself and non-local  
9 user preferences valid for the network, the local user  
10 preferences being stored within the one user terminal and used in  
11 configuring operation of the one user terminal for use by the  
12 user, and the non-local user preferences being communicated, by  
13 the one user terminal and the network to the server, for storage  
14 by the server and for use in configuring operation of the network  
15 as required by the one user terminal for use by the user; and

16 wherein the setting step comprises the steps of:

17 downloading a preferences setting file from the server  
18 to the one user terminal;

19 completing the preferences setting file with input,  
20 from the user and provided via a user interface on the one user  
21 terminal, with the local and non-local user preferences for the  
22 user so as to define a completed preferences setting file having  
23 completed local and non-local preferences; and

24 uploading said preferences setting file to the server.

1 Claim 27 (new): The method recited in claim 26 wherein the  
2 setting step further comprises the step of assigning one or more  
3 preference groups to the completed local and non-local  
4 preferences such that each of the completed local and non-local  
5 preferences is associated with one or more of the preference  
6 groups.

1 Claim 28 (new): The method recited in claim 27 wherein the  
2 setting step further comprises the steps of:

3           selecting, by the user via the user interface, one group  
4           from the preference groups so as to define a selected preference  
5           group;

6           retrieving, by the server, those ones of the local and  
7           non-local preferences which are associated with the selected  
8           preference group; and

9           activating both the operation of the one user terminal,  
10          based on the local preferences associated with the selected  
11          preference group, and the operation of the network or the server,  
12          based on the non-local preferences associated with the selected  
13          preference group.